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**STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORITY**

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March 1, 2012

Dear Charter School Administrators,

The State Public Charter School Authority recognizes the unique educational opportunity charter schools may provide to a new generation of teachers seeking student teaching experiences. So in the spirit of expanding school choice to pre-service teachers, the Authority would like to help facilitate an effective relationship between the Authority sponsored charter schools and accredited postsecondary institutions.

However, the Authority also understands its limitation to serve as a traditional school district and the need to uphold charter school autonomy. Keeping this in mind and for this purpose the term "school district" referred to in NRS 391.095 will be interpreted as "charter school," and the Authority will acknowledge the right of an Authority sponsored charter school to enter into an agreement with an accredited postsecondary institution for the assignment of college/university students for training purposes such as student teaching.

When drafting an agreement with an accredited post-secondary institution, the Authority asks the charter school administrator to keep the following important facts in mind:

- In accordance with NRS 391.095 and NRS 391.038, an agreement may only be written with a branch of the Nevada System of Higher Education or an accredited postsecondary educational institution which is licensed by the Commission of Postsecondary Education and which offers courses of study and training for the education of teachers which are approved or recognized by the State Board. <http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>
- A student teacher may only be employed as a substitute teacher under strict guidelines. Please refer to NRS 391.096.
- During the student teacher practicum, the student teacher should remain subject to the authority of the policies and regulations of the postsecondary institution. He/She should also be subject to all standards, rules, regulations, and administrative practices of the charter school.
- Individuals assigned to or accepted for student teaching placement in the charter school should be responsible for their personal health and accidental insurance.
- The faculty member designated by the charter school as the cooperating teacher should hold valid clear credentials issued by the Nevada Department of Education Teacher Licensure authorizing him/her to serve as a classroom teacher in the classes in which the

directed teaching is provided (NRS 391.095). This mentor teacher should be carefully selected by the administration, should have several years of successful teaching, and possibly should hold a Master's degree or higher.

- The agreement should spell out the number of weeks/days the charter school will be responsible for working with the student teacher and should obtain from the postsecondary institution a clear outline of the responsibilities of the cooperating teacher as well as the responsibilities of the charter school administration.
- Individuals assigned to or accepted for student teaching placement must show proof of undergoing and clearing a federal and state criminal information background check, pursuant to NRS 386.588. Any individual holding a current valid Nevada Substitute Teaching License is in the process of completing or has already completed a federal and state criminal information background check.
- The agreement should reserve the right of either the postsecondary institution or the charter school to remove the student teacher from a student teaching placement at anytime, and for any reason deemed sufficient by any party.
- The agreement should clearly outline any compensation being given to the cooperating teacher by either the postsecondary institution or the charter school.
- The agreement should be brought before the charter school's governing board for approval.

The State Public Charter School Authority wants to encourage state public charter schools sponsored by the Authority to open their doors to student teachers if they so choose, but the Authority also wants to make it clear that any agreement is between the charter school and the accredited post-secondary institution.

Sincerely,



Katherine Rohrer, Ed.D.  
Education Program Professional  
State Public Charter School Authority